

Serial No.: 10/769,933

Attorney Docket No.: NEW10-GN005 (39824)

Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A paint applicator, comprising: a container having an opening; and, a housing assembly removably attached to the container, the housing assembly comprising a cylindrically shaped paint application element and a push-pull valve, the paint application element being positioned adjacent to the valve such that the longitudinal centerline of the valve is positioned offset and above the centerline of the paint application element when the paint applicator is placed in an inverted use position, and the push-pull valve being in fluid communication with the container wherein said container is shaped to include a gripping surface thereon to ergonomically receive the hand of a user and a bottom surface ~~with a cross-sectional area at least equal to the cross-sectional area of any other section of the container.~~

2. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 1, wherein the housing assembly comprises a cap adapted to substantially seal the opening of the container, and a cover adapted to engage the cap.

3. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 2, further comprising a living hinge connecting the cover to the cap.

4. (Cancelled) The paint applicator according to claim 2, wherein the rim comprises a bead and the cap includes an annular channel for receiving the rim, the annular channel including a plurality of ribs adapted to interact with the bead to substantially seal the cap to the container.

5. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 2, wherein the cap includes a recess and the cover includes a projection adapted to interact with the recess to provide a snap-fit engagement between the cap and the cover.

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6. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 2, wherein the cover includes a recess and the cap includes a projection adapted to interact with the recess to provide a snap-fit engagement between the cap and the cover.
7. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 2, wherein the cap is adapted to engage the paint application element.
8. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 7, wherein the cover is adapted to engage the paint application element.
9. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 1, wherein the paint application element is a paint pad.
10. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 1, wherein the paint application element is a paint roller cover.
11. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 10, wherein the push-pull valve comprises a face having a contour that is complementary to an outer diameter of the paint roller cover.
12. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 11, wherein the face is in contact with an outer diameter of the paint roller cover.
13. (Cancelled) The paint applicator according to claim 1, wherein an aperture of the push-pull valve is positioned above a centerline of the paint application element.
14. (Currently Amended) A paint applicator, comprising: a container having an opening; and, a housing assembly removably attached to the container, the housing assembly comprising a cylindrical paint roller cover and a valve, the paint roller cover being positioned adjacent to the valve such that the longitudinal centerline of the valve is

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positioned offset and above the centerline of the paint application element when the paint applicator is placed in an inverted use position, the valve being in fluid communication with the container, and the valve comprising a face having a contour that is complementary to an outer diameter of the paint roller cover wherein said container is shaped to include a gripping surface thereon to ergonomically receive the hand of a user ~~and a bottom surface with a cross-sectional area at least equal to the cross-sectional area of any other section of the container.~~

15. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 14, wherein the housing assembly comprises a cap adapted to substantially seal the opening of the container, and a cover adapted to engage the cap.

16. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 15, further comprising a living hinge connecting the cover to the cap.

17. (Cancelled) The paint applicator according to claim 15, wherein the rim comprises a bead and the cap includes an annular channel for receiving the rim, the annular channel including a plurality of ribs adapted to interact with the bead to substantially seal the cap to the container.

18. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 15, wherein the cap includes a recess and the cover includes a projection adapted to interact with the recess to provide a snap-fit engagement between the cap and the cover.

19. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 15, wherein the cover includes a recess and the cap includes a projection adapted to interact with the recess to provide a snap-fit engagement between the cap and the cover.

20. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 15, wherein the cap is adapted to engage the paint roller cover.

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21. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 20, wherein the cover is adapted to engage the paint roller cover.

22. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 14, wherein the valve is in contact with an outer diameter of the paint roller cover.

23. (Original) The paint applicator according to claim 14, wherein the valve is a push-pull valve.

24. (Cancelled) The paint applicator according to claim 14, wherein an aperture of the valve is positioned above a center line of the paint roller cover.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of applying paint to a surface, comprising: engaging a surface with a paint applicator comprising a container wherein said container is shaped to include a gripping surface thereon to ergonomically receive the hand of a user ~~and a bottom surface with a cross-sectional area at least equal to the cross-sectional area of any other section of the container~~, said container having an opening, and a housing assembly removably attached to the container, the housing assembly comprising a cylindrical paint roller cover and a valve, the paint roller cover being positioned adjacent to the valve such that the longitudinal centerline of the valve is positioned offset and above the centerline of the paint application element when the paint applicator is placed in an inverted use position, the valve being in fluid communication with the container, and the valve comprising a face having a contour that is complementary to an outer diameter of the paint roller cover; and, traversing the surface with the paint roller cover.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising opening the valve.

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27. (Original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising positioning the valve in contact with an outer diameter of the paint roller cover.

28. (Previously amended) The paint applicator according to claim 25, further comprising closing the valve.